

EDITOR'S NOTE

UNIDIR is delighted to announce that *Disarmament Forum* is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. For the past decade *Disarmament Forum* has been an accessible and informative tool, offering expert analysis and creative thinking to a broad audience. Each issue has brought together unique perspectives on topics as diverse as fissile materials and nuclear terrorism, and the role of civil society in disarmament issues. Not only does it remain the sole journal of the United Nations dedicated exclusively to disarmament and security topics, the French language version of *Disarmament Forum* has on several occasions made significant contributions to the disarmament and security literature in that language. All forty back issues of *Disarmament Forum* are available in their entirety on our web site—we invite you to come take a look.

This issue, “Ideas for Peace and Security”, departs from our traditional format to offer a collection of short, forward-looking contributions focusing on a single idea for building security, promoting disarmament or a more peaceful world. The experts participating in this issue are selected from a range of disciplines and backgrounds. Each one brings unique expertise and vision to this endeavour. While we acknowledge that there is no single solution to the range of security challenges facing humanity today, we firmly believe that creative ideas to address distinct security problems will be the building blocks of a more secure future for all humankind.

The next issue of *Disarmament Forum* will consider the question of illicit brokering of arms in all its aspects. In UN General Assembly resolution 63/67, Member States are called upon, inter alia, to establish appropriate national laws and measures to prevent illicit brokering and encouraged to fully implement relevant international treaties, instruments and resolutions to prevent and combat illicit brokering activities. This includes not only the illicit brokering of conventional weapons but also the materials, equipment and technology that could contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Building on the 2007 report of the UN Group of Governmental Experts tasked with considering further steps to enhance cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons, as well as efforts undertaken by other relevant bodies, such as the 1540 Committee of the UN Security Council, Member States have many avenues of action open to them, from national measures to regional initiatives and international cooperation. As the General Assembly will return to the issue of preventing and combating illicit brokering activities at its sixty-fifth session, this issue of *Disarmament Forum* will examine recent initiatives to combat illicit brokering and ask how Member States could best address the issue.

On 12 March 2009, UNIDIR hosted a seminar entitled “Multilateral Approaches to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle” in the Palais des Nations in Geneva as the first public event of the project of the same name. Representatives from more than 40 countries attended the seminar and a productive discussion

took place following the presentations. The pre-publication study paper *Multilateralization of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Assessing the Existing Proposals* was distributed at the seminar and is available from our web site. The audio files of these presentations are also available at <www.unidir.org>.

UNIDIR held three events on the margins of the NPT Preparatory Committee in New York 4–15 May 2009. On 5 May, as a component of UNIDIR’s multiyear research project on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, UNIDIR hosted the seminar “A Multilateral Approach to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Can It Strengthen the NPT?”. The following day, the seminar “Nuclear Renaissance: Non-proliferation and Shared Responsibilities” brought together experts from both nuclear agencies and academia to explore the possible challenges and consequences that a resurgence in interest in nuclear energy has brought to the nuclear non-proliferation discussion. On 13 May, UNIDIR launched its recent publication *Unfinished Business: the Negotiation of the CTBT and the End of Nuclear Testing*, by Dr Rebecca Johnson.

Preparations are under way for UNIDIR’s annual space security conference, to be held in Geneva on 15 and 16 June 2009. This year’s theme is “Space Security 2009: Moving toward a Safer Space Environment”. Building on the well understood potential elements of a space security regime, this year’s discussions will focus on how to build these elements and implement new processes and structures to make space security a reality.

In closing I would like to express my personal appreciation to the *Disarmament Forum* team—Valérie Compagnion and Jane Linekar, as well as graphic designer Diego Oyarzún Reyes. The quarterly appearance of *Disarmament Forum* would not be possible were it not for the team’s professionalism, commitment, experience and good humour.

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